

SSUSH20 The student will analyze the domestic and international impact of the Cold War on the United States.



The Cold War

The Cold War was the era of confrontation and competition beginning immediately after WW II between the United States and the Soviet Union





a. Describe the creation of the Marshall Plan, U.S. commitment to Europe, the Truman Doctrine, and the origins and implications of the containment policy.

- After WW II much of Europe was devastated physically and economically.
 - To rebuild Europe and support democratic ideas, the U.S. developed the Marshall Plan which provided billions of dollars in aid to European countries.
 - The Soviet Union rejected the aid and developed it's own economic program.
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Truman Doctrine

- Proposed by President Harry Truman in 1947, The Truman Doctrine provided aid to any country battling Communist aggression
 - It was immediately used to support the free governments in Turkey and Greece against communist threats.
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Containment Policy

- Containment was the U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union and communism used to block, or contain, communist expansion into other countries.

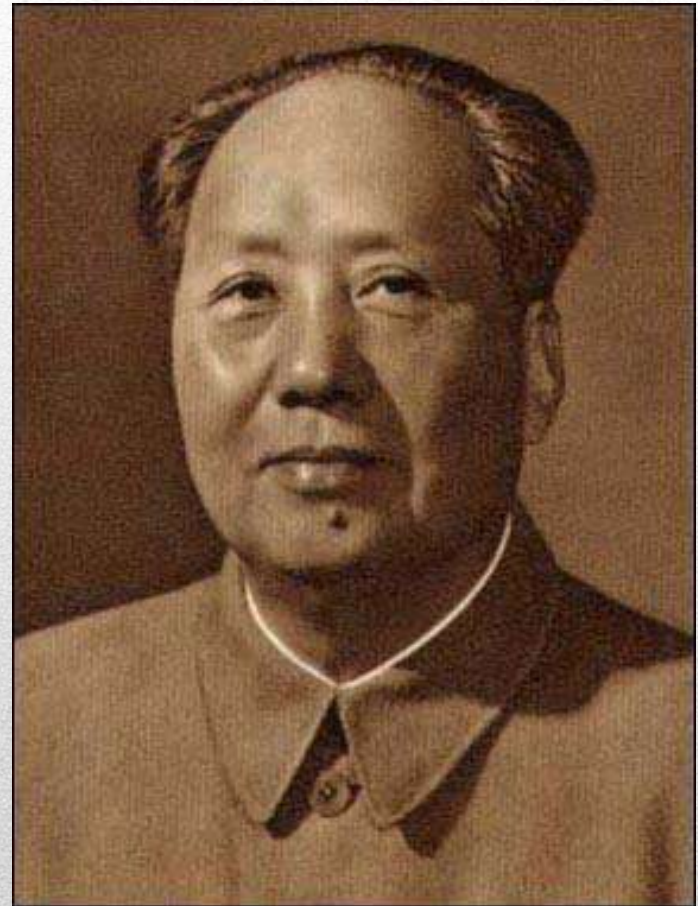


b. Explain the impact of the new communist regime in China and the outbreak of the Korean War and how these events contributed to the rise of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

- Following WW II, China was involved in a civil war between the U.S. backed Nationalist government and Mao Zedong's Communist forces.
 - Despite help from the U.S. the Nationalist government lost and retreated to the island of Taiwan.
 - The Communist People's Republic of China was formed in 1949.
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Mao Zedong

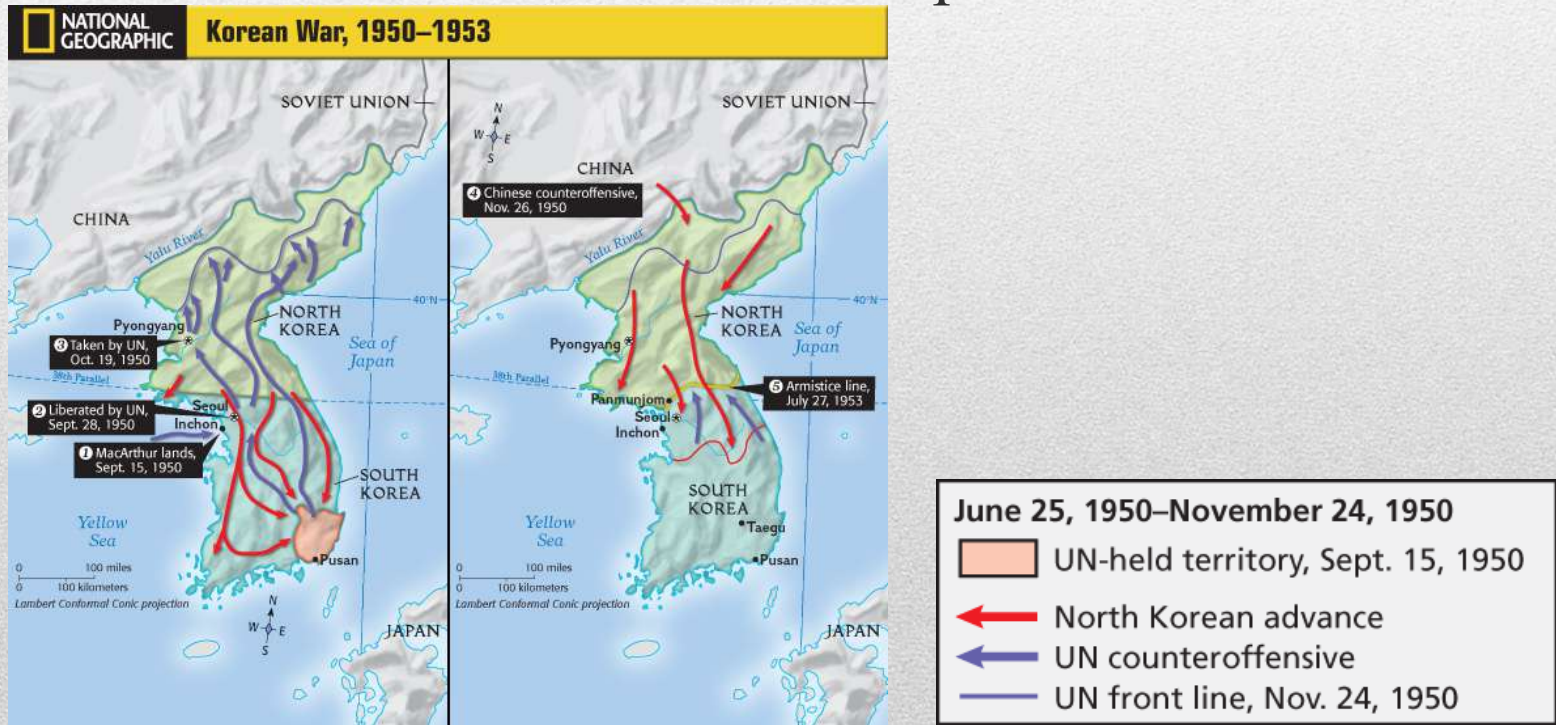
- In 1950, the People's Republic and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of alliance.
- The U.S. feared that the two countries would spread communism across the globe.
- The U.S. immediately began to industrialize/rebuild Japan in order to gain an ally in Asia.



Korean War

- At the end of WW II Korea was split into two at the 38th parallel, with the Soviets occupying the north and the U.S. occupying the south.
 - Both the North and the South formed their own governments and claimed the entire country as their own.
 - In 1950 the Soviet backed North Korean Army invaded South Korea nearly capturing the whole country.
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- The U.S. Army backed by United Nations troops, counter-attacked and pushed the North Korean Army to the border of China.
- Feeling threatened by the advance, China attacked and forced the U.S. to retreat back behind the 38th parallel.



- The two sides eventually signed a peace treaty in 1953
- The U.S. then began to build up their military and signed defense agreements with many Asian countries
- The U.S. also began sending aid to French forces fighting Communist forces in Vietnam

Korean War

Senator Joseph McCarthy

- The rise of Communism in the Soviet Union and China, and the war in Korea gave rise to a new Red Scare in the U.S.
 - Many Americans felt as though the U.S. was losing the Cold War battle and wanted a government explanation.
 - In 1950 Senator McCarthy claimed to have a list of 205 men working for the U.S. government who were members of the Communist Party-this claim propelled him into the American spotlight.
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- In 1952 McCarthy began holding hearings about Communism, accusing many in the government of being spies, or Communist sympathizers.
 - His “witch-hunt” for communist became known as McCarthyism. Those who openly challenged McCarthy would be accused of being a communist sympathizer.
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- McCarthy's downfall began in 1954 when, in televised hearings, he accused the U.S. Army of containing communists.
- As millions of Americans watched on TV, he openly badgered and harassed witnesses.
- With pressure from the American people, Congress censured McCarthy, ending his political power.



c. Describe the Cuban Revolution, the Bay of Pigs, and the Cuban missile crisis.

- In 1959 Fidel Castro overthrew the American supported leader of Cuba, Batista.
- Cuba, only 90 miles from the U.S. mainland, took control of all U.S. property in Cuba, including land and factories.
- The new Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, aligned his government with the Soviet Union.



Bay of Pigs



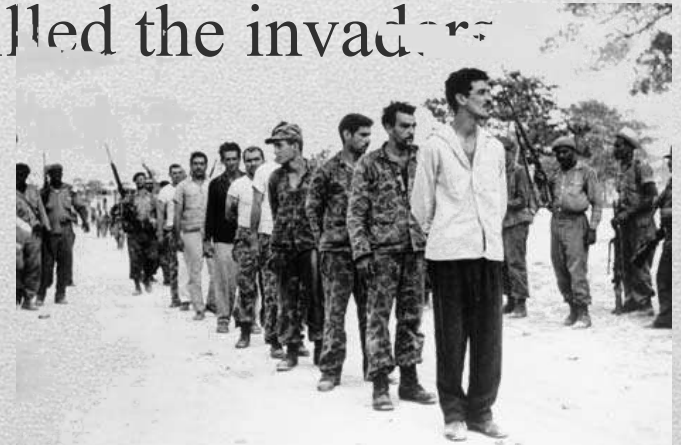
- When John Kennedy became President in 1961, he inherited a plan from the previous President which called for a CIA backed invasion of Cuba in order to over-throw Castro.
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- The U.S. worried that the Soviet Union would use Cuba as a base to spread Communism through out the Western Hemisphere.
- Though only the President for three months, Kennedy listened to his advisors and approved the secret plan which called for 1,500 Cuban exiles to attack, supported by U.S. planes.



The attack was a disaster:

- News of the attack leaked out days before it happened
- The attack site, the “Bay of Pigs”, was poorly chosen with coral reefs slowing down the landing craft, and swampy land causing problems once ashore
- In an effort to hide U.S. involvement, Kennedy refused to send in the expected air support
- Within days Cuba had captured or killed the invaders



Cuban Missile Crisis

In 1962 U.S. spy planes photographed Soviet made long range missiles being set-up in Cuba



Cuban Missile Crisis

Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba, demanded that the Soviets dismantle and remove the missiles, and warned Russia that the U.S. would launch an all out nuclear missile attack on the Soviet Union if any missiles were fired from Cuba.



Cuban Missile Crisis

- The Soviets ignored the warning and continued to work on the sites.
 - Many in the U.S. believed that a nuclear holocaust would occur.
 - In late October, after secretly negotiating with the Soviets, disaster was avoided.
 - Russia agreed to pull out of Cuba if the U.S. promised not to invade the island.
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d. Describe the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive, and growing opposition to the war.

- The U.S. had been sending economic and military aid to South Vietnam since the early 1950s to combat North Vietnam's Communist government
- By 1963, the U.S. had over 16,000 "advisers" in South Vietnam



Vietnam War



- In August 1964 President Lyndon Johnson announced that North Vietnamese ships had attacked two American destroyers (this turned out to be untrue).
 - Johnson asked permission from Congress to let American forces defend themselves if attacked: Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
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Vietnam War

- The Vietcong began attacking military bases in the South, which killed and wounded U.S. advisers
- In 1965 Johnson ordered U.S. jets to attack positions in the North
- In March 1965, Johnson launched Operation Rolling Thunder, a bombing campaign of the North, and sent more than 180,000 troops to fight in Vietnam



Anti-War Movement

- Vietnam was the first “television” war where Americans could see first hand what was happening in the war
- As the war dragged on, many Americans began to protest U.S. involvement
 - * Teach-Ins
 - * Draft Dodging
 - * Doves vs. Hawks
 - * Protest Marches



Tet Offensive (1968)

- In early 1968, military leaders announced that U.S. forces were gaining strength and winning the war.
- In late January 1968, the North Vietnamese launched a surprise attack during the Vietnamese New Year. They attacked nearly every U.S. airbase and most major cities.





- Though the attack was a military failure, the Tet Offensive was a turning point in the war because most Americans came to believe that the U.S. could not win the war
- President Johnson's approval rating dropped dramatically and eventually led Johnson not to seek reelection